# SMACE INTERFACE

AUGUST 1987

SANTA MARIA/LOMPOC ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS


# ANTIC Copyright Policy !

*(The following article is reprinted from the May issue of the Eugene ACE Newsletter)*

by Leo Newman, HELP BBS SysOp (316) 683-7514

I hope this article will be published by other user groups nationwide. I think it is time we encourage a letter writing campaign to *Antic Magazine*, much the same way as they encouraged us to do so in an effort to get more 8 bit software produced by Electronic Arts a couple of years ago.

As many of you may know I run the *HELP BBS*, a purely PUBLIC DOMAIN BBS. It is extremely difficult to find good quality PUBLIC DOMAIN software for our computers on a regular basis. *Antic Magazine* prior to April of 1984 did not claim copyrights to their software printed as type in programs in their magazine, but in a attempt to force users to type in their programs or buy their DISK issues has decided they own exclusive rights by virtue of copyright to their programs.

I can certainly understand their claiming copyright laws to their programs, this should onlybe expected. However they refuseto allow these programs to be placed on any type of PUBLIC ADDRESS BBS for downloading, or to be placed in any Club library without prior written permission. Having been refused by virtue of not receiving an answer to my request, I assume no one is going to get such permission. Supporting this conclusion is the fact their EDITOR wrote to the MACE club and demanded all ANTIC programs be removed from their BBS under penalty of law.

Some of you may know that ANTIC is a member of the SPA, Software Producers of America. The forming of this organization was to track down and to prosecute BBS's around the country who were placing Commercial software on their systems for downloading. I heartily agree with their idea, and support them fully, being a software producer myself. However, I do not see why *Antic Magazine* can't adopt the same practice as *Analog Magazine* of allowing their programs to beplaced on public BBS's and in Club libraries in the month the magazine was printed for.

I want to point out *Analog Magazine* also sells Disk issues, so there is a possible loss of revenue for them as well as Antic. I also have to admit I am tired of reading the IO colum (reader feedback) in Antic and seeing them hype their programs. I can't blame them for wanting to make money, but what is their CATALOG for?

For those who want to write to *Antic Magazine*, please address your letters to the attent of:

James Capparell
c/o Antic Magazine
524 Second Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94107

In your letter be sure to indicate you feel Antic should allow their type in programs to be placed on BBS's and in Club Libraries in the same manner as their most fierce competitor *Analog Magazine*. Maybe with this type of input they will see past the dollar sign of selling a DISK issue into the future of retaining their readership!

I want other clubs to pick up this article and reprint it in their newsletter! We need more than one voice to get a response. We did it once before when ANTIC cried for our help! Now we would like to see the same cooperation from ANTIC!

## WRITE TODAY!!!

(Editor's Note: I believe Antic has always copyrighted their original programs. Some confusion might be caused because Antic for many years included many public domain programs in their type-in listings. The right to distribute those public domain programs from Antic never has extended to their copyrighted programs. If a copyright holder permits distribution of a program by a BBS to anyone who calls, the copyright will be lost forever. The only way they can maintain their copyright is to prohibit such copying. Antic may well have contracts with authors of copyrighted materials which can be violated by Antic either permitting or acquiescing in the distribution of those programs by BBS's. --JB)

The SANTA MARIA LOMPOC ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS is an independent ATARI Computer Users Group.

Meetings are held the First Wednesday of Each Month at the Oak Knoll Bowl in Santa Maria, at 7:00 p.m.

Memberships include a Subscription to this Newsletter and free access to the Users Disk and Technical Library, and are $20.00 / year

ALL correspondence including Articles and Exchange Newsletters should be addressed to:

S.M.L.A.C.E.
P.O. Box 2286
Santa Maria, Ca 93455

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Gerry Stotts 937-4830

VICE PRESIDENT
Steve Ramm 937-0853

SECRETARY
Jim Keenan 937-6750

TREASURER
Ray Vigeant 922-7292

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Mike Jacobson 925-9390

8-BIT LIBRARIAN
Phil Pacheco 937-2608

ST LIBRARIAN
Doug Hadland 735-8067

BBS SYSOP
Pat Signs 937-3718

## TREASURE CHEST BBS

937-0245

## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page ..... $15.00
Half Page ..... $ 7.50
Qtr. Page ..... $ 5.00
Bus. Card ..... $ 2.50
Member Ads . FREE

Discount Rates Available
Contact Editor for Info

All advertising must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter

This newsletter is written and printed by members of the Santa Maria - Lompoc ATARI Computer Enthusiasts, an association of individuals with a common interest...Using and Programming the ATARI Computers. This group is not in any way affiliated with ATARI, INC., nor with any other commercially oriented organization. Any Logos, Trademarks or Company Names are used either with permission or as an informal method of referring to a product or company. All articles are written and donated by the membership and no guarantees are made as to the accuracy and validity of any information contained herein. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual author and do not necessarily represent, nor reflect the opinions of the Santa Maria - Lompoc ATARI Computer Enthusiasts, nor those of any other commercial or non-commercial organization. Any article appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced, providing credit is given to the author and to the Santa Maria - Lompoc ATARI Computer Enthusiasts.

## CALENDAR
### of coming events

Wed. Aug. 5 - S.M.L.A.C.E. Meeting
Oak Knowl Bowl 7 pm

Wed. Aug. 12 - ST SIG Meeting
Jim Wooding's house
396 Highland
SM 7-9 pm

Wed. Sept 3 - S.M.L.A.C.E. Meeting
Oak Knowl Bowl 7 pm

September ST SIG Meeting Time and Location to be Announced

## PREZ SEZ

*by Gerry Stotts*

This month is another don't miss for all you adventure game players out there! We will have Phillip Price of Alternate Reality fame with us to demo and answer questions! He will show his programs on both the 8-bit and 16-bit machines. I hope you all show up to let Phillip know that you appreciate his efforts. The day is August 5th at 7:00 pm at the Oak Knoll Bowl.

This is also the month to nominate new officers for our club. I am sure we can nominate enough people to have a real election this time. Just nominate your best buddy that didn't show up this month! Best thing you can do for them. Get them involved! So be sure to show up (just to keep your friends honest).

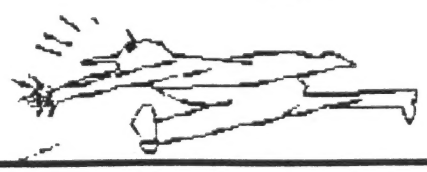
If time permits I will show you a new 8-bit program called Forms Generator. It is just what it sounds like. Lets you create a "what you see is what you get" form. It combines a lot of the features of a spread sheet and a graphics program into one program.

The ST SIG is in need of a place to meet, if you wish to continue having it! I would like to see this continue. It helps you, the ST owner get the most out of your machine. If you want to see this continue, GET INVOLVED!!! If you don't care then guess what?

Would you like to see a question and answer column in this newsletter? Put your questions down on paper and hand them to any officer or mail them to: P.O. Box 2286, Santa Maria 93455. We will put your name or you can remain anonymous. If this is better than at the meetings then let's do it!

We will be asking you if we should join ACENET at the meeting. What is it and what will it do for us? Come to the meeting and find out! See ya at the August 5th meeting!

-Gerry-



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

*by Jim Keenan*

The July meeting was held at Oak Knoll Bowl, July 1st. What a night. It was "SWAP MEET".

At one time I tried to make a head count and came up with 66, but with so many milling about, it is safe to say there were over 50.

Did you see all the bargains!! We even had a good representation from the Central Coast Computer Club. (They own computers other than ATARI) There were two Commodore Amigas' for sale and a couple of TR2000s. There were representatives from the local ATARI dealers; COMPUTER CONNECTION, COMPUTER LOGIC and PARADISE COMPUTERS.

The VeePee Steve Ramm stayed busy all night filling requests for copies of disks from the library. Mike Torres won the first choice in the raffle and selected 'BALLBLAZER'. Ray Vigeant won second choice and selected a Flip/File ten disk holder.

See you all Aug. 5th.

## VP SAYS

*by Steve Ramm*

After delaying the start of this August column a bit too long, I chanced to go by B. Daltons and discovered that they have redone their computer section. On the bad side they, like everyone else, have become very selective as to what they sell. This translates out to mostly IBM, a fair amount of Apple that is predominantly MacIntosh and a smear of Commodore. Atari is given honorable mention. On the good side they have increased their magazine display. And will wonders never cease, there was a stack of Analog's 8-bit Extra magazine that I've been hearing about. You know, the one that was supposed to be out way back when. I shouldn't be too surprised though, here it is the end of July and I have yet to see the July issue of Analog in my mailbox. Maybe they all used to work for the railroad. I was excited to see the magazine, less excited about the price ($9).

After looking through the pages quickly I said to myself: "Yes, this has possibilities, but instead of typing the programs in I bet I could get it all on disk; wonder why I didn't see some issues packaged with disks?". My question was answered by an add on the back page: a coupon for disks. All you have to do is send them $25 (no handling or shipping charge mentioned) and they will send you two disks with all programs on them. Still with me? Yea...makes you stop and think a moment or two. I can't tell you whether or not its worth it, that's something that you'll have to decide.

I keep thinking of the Apple and an ad that I read long ago that they had over 10,000 programs available. Now, if you could buy each program for $1, that would be extremely reasonable but if you had to get them as a package would they be worth $10,000 collectively?

If you get something that you're never going to use; any price you pay for it is too much.

And this opens the door to my next subject: Piracy. My purpose here is not to defend, rationalize or condem the practice. Instead I offer an historical perspective. In the late 19th century a man became very famous as an inventor, but much like a modern day "bankable" screen actor runs short of good scripts, this inventor ran short of inventions. So he paid others for their inventions that then became his. Having paid money for something he wanted to make money with, he leased, rather than sell his inventions. That's right. You didn't buy your light bulbs, you leased them. And when they burnt out you brought their carcasses down to the power company and exchanged them for new. You leased your stove, refrigerator, phone and the rights to view a motion picture. Some of these business arrangements that we know nothing about would seem very absurd to us now if we

were to compare them to modern day practices. For instance, selling hardback books was good business. The publishers at first refused to sell to libraries. Dale Carnegie was their enemy. After all, if you could borrow a book, why buy it. They saw libraries as a big problem. Now, they are their best customers.

You can go to just about any product and trace its development through a commercial labrinyth of changing attitudes, financial makeup, market conditions, etc.

Eventual after many turns and twists of the wheel a stable market would emerge that seemed to be reasonable fair to most involved. But someone always wants a monopoly, to control the market, to retire to Florida on one seasons sales receipts. And someone else wants it just the opposite.

The computer and software market is victim to the same "rules". I say victim because we seem to have more casualties than successes. It was very discouraging to read that it was estimated that 2/3 of the people that use Paperclip haven't bothered to "thank" the authors for their trouble.

I don't really know how its all going to turn out. I would like to think that authors, developers and software distributors will get paid for their work and that we as users will have access to good programs without having to pay too much. End of subject.

I see the market defining itself into two groups --- the hobby users and the business users. What is making this definition is not the machine or the intended use but money. If you are going to use something to make money or conserve it then the only absolute is not the cost of the tool but how much money is saved by the use of the tool and how soon the tool pays for itself.

Word processing software for the IBM can run from $400 to $1000 for some excellent programs. A business can afford this when they see how much a good program can help them and save them money as opposed to a lesser program.

A non business entity on the other hand chokes at these prices. He has no way to "make back" the price of the software. It would be nice for us if we had some way of checking programs out, like books, from a program library but such a situation in today's market place would be abused. Perhaps in the future...

One idea I had would be to have distributors put together a group of programs that were financially played out for them and to sell these large packages of programs to user groups who would then loan them out to their members. Yes the members would abuse this but the distributors would be benefiting from a windfall sale to all the user groups in the marketplace with software that had dropped to a monetary trickle. Imagine selling a $1000 package to 5000

user groups. That's 5 million dollars on software that won't bring in 2 million in 5 years. For that kind of a deal they can let us abuse them and they can cry all the way to the bank.

Moving right along to some ST news, it now has four personalities. It's an ST, a MacIntosh, an IBM and now an Atari 8 bit. The last two personalities run slower than the originals so you might not want to indulge to any serious extent. And whereas hardware mods to the 8 bit are not a problem as almost all programs are designed for an unmodified setup, the same is not true for the IBM. IBM programs that require specific auxiliary hardware to run (mouse, graphic boards, etc.) will not work on the ST.

Our BBS, after a brief period of being down should now be up, better than ever. We have four drives that give us a total of 2.1 megs of space. Pat also has a copy of all our library disks. What more can I say?

We have an unusual disk of the month this time. It is a theme disk containing public domain adventure games. The backside of the disk is one game that is written in basic and we will be talking more about it during the meeting. It is written very simply, straight forwardly (if that is possible in BASIC) without any escoteric machine language calls or algorithyms. Some parts of it run slowly as a result, but the tradeoff is that it is easily understood and modified.

In fact, I modified it to include some familiar scenes at the begining. I thought we could do two things with it. We could have a contest to see who could write the best story and we could use this program as a tutorial into the ins and outs of basic programing. For those of you who have an interest in what programing is all about, we could take apart this program at a meeting or two and you would not only be able to write your own version but you would probably feel a bit more confident at tackling some of those other projects you have thought about.

So remember to come to this meeting, get the disk and become a programer, an adventurer and maybe win the prize.

# ST SIG

The ST SIG is in big trouble and desperatelyl needs your help. In case you don't know, ISU where we had been meeting has closed its doors and we now are short one place to hold our meetings.

This month, Wed., Sept. 9th we have graciously been allowed to hold our meeting at Jim Woodling's home at 396 Highland in SM from 7-9 pm. If you need directions, call me at 925-9390.

But this will not solve our delema, we need your help to find a perminent meeting place. Also, at the end of the year, I will be resigning as Chairman and we will need someone to carry on if the SIG is to exist.

If you want to see the SIG continue, get involved or it will die..... a lonely death. Mike

# NEWS 'n' RUMORS

*(The following is excerpts from reports printed in the Jul/Aug Current Notes)*

CES - Chicago May 30

The Mega ST, Blitter upgrade and laser printer were not being shown. Atari said that these products were aimed at computer specialty stores and no the mass market which is what CES is primarily for. The Mega ST1 has officially been shelved because it overlaps too much with the current 1040ST market. Neil Harris of Atari Corp. stated that the Megas name will not change which is contrary to other reports. He also said the Mega ST2 and ST4 are on a ship heading for our shores NOW and should be available by July.

The Atari PC was at the show running Lotus 1-2-3 and some impressive color graghics demos. According to an Atari Rep., the Atari PC will not only come with *GEM Desktop* and *MS DOS* but will also include *GEM Paint* & *GEM Write.*

For the XEs, Atari was showing the XF551 a new 5 1/4" disk drive. It is supposed to be faster, true double density, ant to include ADOS wich supports Sub directories. No release date was given other than sometime in 1987.

Also being shown were the XEP80 and the SX212 1200 baud modem. The XE Game System was shown and will sell for $150 which includes a comsole unit with 64k, an attachable keyboard, a game pistol and joystick. Missle Command, Blast 'Em, and Flight Simulator II including the secenery disk will be included on a 256K cartridge. A disk drive can be added to the system so that it can access the disk-based library of XE/XL computers. For the Game System, Atari will release 14 new titles on cartridges.

## DALLAS ATARIFEST 1987

May 8 & 9 - In an address by Neil Harris, he reinterated Atari's continuing commitment to the 8-bit computers and is actively seeking and working with third party software firms as well as their own programers to bring new 8-bit products to market. near future release dates were announced for the XEP80 for the 8-bit, the MEGA ST, the Laser Printer, Blitter Chip upgrades and the Atari PC.

Neil also spoke of the new 5 1/4" disk drive for the XE/XLs. It is supposed to read all previous official Atari OS's, be three times faster than the 1050 and about the same size. Release date is not known and price will be arround $250. There will be no 3 1/2" disk drive from Atari for the 8-bits.

As for the Fest itself, attendees were greeted by a good assortment of exhibitors. Just to name a few, Astra Systems was showing the SYSTEM HD+ hard disk for the ST. Word Perfect for the ST was demonstrated showing macros, merge, footnotes, spell checker, thesaurua and more. It is a welcome addition for the professional word processor and will retail for about $395.

# COMPUTER CONNECTION

Santa Maria/Lompoc's LARGEST ATARI-Specific Computer Outlet!

Come by and check out **pc-ditto**. See an ATARI ST run IBM software. Now the best of *both* worlds... the ST *and* IBM!!!

## LARGEST selection of ST software for 20 miles!

*To name just a few in stock...*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PLUTOS | Q-BALL | SKYFOX |
| FONT WRITER PLUS | STEREO CAD-3D 2.0 | PC-DITTO |
| PRINTMASTER PLUS | BALANCE OF POWER | MAD LIBS |
| KDS PRINTER DRIVER | PAINTPRO & LIBRARY | DATATRIEVE |
| CHESSMASTER 2000 | LABELMASTER ELITE | QUIZAM! |

**Check our used ST software table...**

**NEW FOR THE 8-BIT:** INFILTRATOR *by MindScape* (HELICOPTER SIM.)

**and some Oldies, but Goodies...**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SPACE INVADERS | INIT. TO PROG. 2,3 | TOUCH TYPING |
| HOME FILING MANAGER | MINER 2049er | DONKEY KONG + *more* |

## 934-3655

P.O. Box 2286
Santa Maria, Ca.
93455

SMLACE